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HARRINGTON & SMITH

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Appl. No.: 10/541,085

Reply to Office Action of: 01/10/2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A keypad comprising:

a set of switches;

a set of mechanical key elements, each capable of being moved by a user so as to operate a respective switch wherein each key element comprises an outer pad for actuation by a user; and

a display device, the display pattern of which can be varied under the control of a display controller, and arranged so as to be capable of propagating two or more patterns of light from at least some of the key elements wherein the display device is located between each outer pad and the respective switch;

whereby indicia may be displayed from the key elements and the displayed indicia varied under the control of the display controller.

2. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein the display device is in the form of a flexible film and is arranged to flex when a user moves a key element to operate a respective switch.

Appl. No.: 10/541,085

Reply to Office Action of: 01/10/2008

3. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 2, wherein the key elements are rigid elements interconnected by the flexible film.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein each outer pad is transparent.

6. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein the display device is a light-emitting display device.

7. (Previously presented) An electronic device including a keypad as claimed in claim 1 and the said display controller.

8. (Original) An electronic device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the display controller is arranged to, in a first mode, cause the display device to display a first set of indicia from each of the key elements and, in a second mode, display a second set of indicia from each of the key elements.

9. (Original) An electronic device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first mode is a numeric input mode and the first set of indicia are numeric indicia, and the second mode is an alphabetic input mode and the first set of indicia are alphabetic indicia.

10. (Previously presented) An electronic device as claimed in claim 9, wherein in the first and second modes the indicia displayed from each key element is indicative of the character that would be input on pressing the key element.

Appl. No.: 10/541,085

Reply to Office Action of: 01/10/2008

11. (Previously presented) An electronic device as claimed in claim 10, wherein in the second mode the character that would be input on pressing the key element is dependent on the number of times the key element has been pressed within a predetermined time period of each previous such press without the pressing of another of the key elements.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) A keypad as claimed in claim 1, wherein each switch is positioned directly underneath a nib of its respective key element.

15. (Previously presented) An electronic device as claimed in claim 8 wherein the key elements are arranged to protrude through individual holes in a housing of the electronic device.

16. (New) A keypad comprising:

a display device comprising a first side and an opposite second side;

a plurality of mechanical key elements connected to the first side of the display device, wherein each of the plurality of mechanical key elements comprises an outer pad extending from the first side of the display device, and wherein the outer pad is configured to be operated by a user of the keypad; and

Appl. No.: 10/541,085

Reply to Office Action of: 01/10/2008

a plurality of switches opposite the second side of the of the display device, wherein each of the plurality of switches corresponds to one of the plurality of mechanical key elements;

wherein a display pattern of the display device can be varied under the control of a display controller, and arranged so as to be capable of propagating two or more patterns of light from at least some of the key elements;

whereby indicia may be displayed from the key elements and the displayed indicia varied under the control of the display controller.

17. (New) A keypad as claimed in claim 16 further comprising a plurality of nibs connected to the second side of the display device, wherein each of the plurality of nibs corresponds to one of the plurality of mechanical key elements.

18. (New) A keypad as claimed in claim 17 further comprising a plurality of resilient members between the plurality of nibs and the plurality of switches.